GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Illegal Mining of Sand
Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases pertaining to illegal mining of major and minor minerals especially sand and stone reported in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether measures have been taken to check the illegal mining of the said minerals and the action taken against the offenders/criminals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of action taken in the matter so far?

Answer

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 18 REGARDING ILLEGAL MINING OF SAND RAISED BY SHRI RAJESH VERMA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR REPLY ON 02ND FEBRUARY, 2017.

(a) to (c): As per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), State Governments have been empowered to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for the purposes connected therewith. Therefore, prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.
However, based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, state-wise details of instances of illegal mining reported for the last three years along with the details of action taken against the offenders/criminals is given in Annexure-I, II & III.

For controlling illegal mining in the country, the Central Government has inter-alia taken the following measures:

â€¢ The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which came into effect from 12th January, 2015. The Amendment Act contains, inter alia, stringent punitive provisions for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area. Provisions have been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

â€¢ The Central Government has amended Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, (MCDR) 1988, making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockists, exporters and end-users of minerals to register and report on the production, trade and utilization of minerals to the State Government(s) and Indian Bureau of Mines. Up to December, 2016, total 3848 mining leases excluding 31minor minerals have been registered online with IBM. IBM has suspended 210 mines for noncompliance and recommended 237 cases to State Governments for termination. Similarly, as regards to the status of registration of end users, traders, stockists and exporters, at the end of December, 2016 total 3207 units of
â€¢ State Governments have been asked to frame Rules under section 23C of Mines & end-users, 5162 number of traders, 1636 number of stockists and 856 number of exporters have been registered. Indian Bureau of Mines has also requested the State Governments not to issue transit passes for movement of minerals to unregistered operators.

â€¢ Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has entered into a MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), for a pilot project "Sudoor Drushti" to demonstrate the feasibility of using High Resolution Satellite imagery and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) in monitoring mining activities / changes over a period of time over selected group of mines.

â€¢ Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to enable them to provide for inspection, checking & search of minerals at the place of excavation, storage and during transit. The Rules would also provide for establishment of check-post and weigh-bridges at important centers. So far 20 States have framed Rules namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal & West Bengal.

â€¢ The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for facilitating State Governments in curbing illegal mining activities in the country. MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration, through public participation, by facilitating State Governments in curbing instances of illegal mining. The wider use of Satellite Remote

Sensing Technology together with Information Technolgy will offer quick, transparent and periodic monitoring of mining leases including easy access to remote areas. The MSS also includes user-friendly mobile application for use of mining officials which will receive alerts, do field verification and submit inspection reports.
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